

61605/P

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

Philosophical Transactions

of JULY, 1670.

With some Reflexions on

Dr. John Wallis,

HIS

LETTER

There Inserted.



London,

Printed for Henry Brome, at the Gun at the West-End of
St. Pauls, 1678.

avoidance and avoidance



The title

TOC

A

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

Philosophical Transactions of July, 1670, &c.



HE Reader is requested to be at the Pains and Patience to consider and scan well some matters of Fact, concerning which an Appeal is here made to him; wherein the Author is not so much concerned to be righted to his Title against an Invader, as to express his just Resentment of the subtle practices, which have been contrived to abuse and mislead the Reader with false shews, somewhat resembling Truth. Which, but nakedly exposed to light, if it seem severe, it must be imputed to the matter it self.

IN the Year 16⁷⁰, Dr. *William Holder* at *Bletchington*, near *Oxford*, taught *Alexander Popham* Esq; being born Deaf and Dumb, to speak. Of which a larger account is given in the following Paper.

Dr. *John Wallis* lived then in *Oxford*, saw and perfectly knew this; was Conversant with Dr. *Holder*; was one of those many who resorted to *Bletchington*, to see and hear Mr. *Popham*.

Yet the same Dr. *Wallis*, about two years after, having undertook Mr. *Whately*, who was then without speech, is seen pretending to enter into a long Philosophical Consideration, whether it may not be possible in Nature, and Morally

possible, that is, possible to succeed in practice, to teach Mr. Whately to speak and understand a language; so to encourage himself to undertake that difficult task, pretending also to be induced to it upon those *Considerations*, which was a most pleasant piece of Pageantry.

For he then certainly knew, that it was possible to teach a Deaf and Dumb person to speak; because he had seen it effected two years before upon Mr. Popham. And for Mr. Whately, he was not born Dumb, but had use of his Tongue till five years of Age (as Dr. Wallis himself relates); And then, by reason of his loss of Hearing, without any Detriment to the Organs of Speech, fell by degrees into a Desuetude of speaking. And a less knowing person than Dr. Wallis, could easily have pronounced (without filling a sheet of Paper with Considerations) that it was possible for Mr. Whately to be made to speak, he having already given proof of it.

But there was more use of those Considerations, than to encourage himself (as he pretends) to undertake so difficult a task. He had a long aking-tooth, to joyn to his other Trophies, that which he saw performed by Dr. Holder, and silently passed over, *viz.* The finding a successful way of teaching Dumb and Deaf persons to speak. And seeing it was too late to be Author of that which was found out already; and yet he was resolved to assume to himself this experiment; he had recourse to subtle contrivances. He meets with a young Gentleman two years after, who (as hath been said) having been able to speak till five years of Age, fell by Deafness into a disuse of speaking, it was no such difficult task (as he pretends) to instruct him to recover somewhat of the use of his Tongue.

But having done this in a happy hour, all possible noise is presently made of it. It is shewed at Court, and Gresham-College, and entred into the Journal of the Royal Society. If Dr. Wallis had performed this experiment upon Mr. Popham, (who was born Deaf and Dumb) the Court and Royal Society could not have escaped the noise of it, as being more worthy of their notice, and his Vaunt.

However, the fame of it brings to him Mr. Popham, who

being before returned home to his Friends, began to lose what he had been taught by Dr. Holder. From thenceforth Dr. *Wallis* practised to assume Mr. *Popham's* speaking wholly to himself; not that he dared to challenge it, but he contrived always to have it believed; which he did with so much industry and effect, that there are at this day very few in *Oxford*, who know or think otherwise, but that it was the *effect of the Doctors skill*, as he has caused it to be published in the *Transactions*.

By these Considerations therefore, his design was to make the world believe that he was the first who thought of it, which he could not then do whilst things were fresh in memory and knowledg about *Oxford*. These Considerations did not see the light till about eight years after, and were to usher in a Postscript or Comment upon his Letter, which was to pass, as if written by the Publisher of the *Transactions*, but was wholly penned by himself, as Mr. *Oldenburgh* avowed to Dr. *Holder*, and after to the Right Honourable President, and to others of the Society. Which is not the first nor the last *effect of the said Doctors skill*, in thus penning and spreading his own fame. The Reader may find and see in several Authors Works, who would suffer themselves to be so imposed upon, the Fame and Praise of Dr. *Wallis* in large Characters ingrauen by himself. For that purpose the *Transactions* were his common Market, and a new Book upon the Anvil, if he could find way and leave to croud himself in, was a Fair for this Merchant of Glory. And when he got a hint (for which he always lay in wait) of any considerable new Invention or Improvement, presently comes out an Epistle or small Tractate of Dr. *John Wallis* upon that subject, to entitle it to himself.

As to this particular, the Reader will find a summary account of it in this ensuing Paper, which is set down as it was intended to be inserted in the *Transactions*. And though this present Vindication appears so late, the complaint and address to the Royal Society were more early, but met with delays, which were also favoured by the

Remissness of Dr. Holder in pursuing so unpleasant an affair. And possibly it had never seen the light, had not Dr. Wallis very lately given a fresh occasion, in a Book lately published at Oxford by Dr. Plot.

Preface by the Publisher of the Transactions, Mr. Oldenburgh.

IN the Transactions of July 1670. No. 61. p. 1087. an account is given of a Dumb and Deaf person taught by Dr. Wallis to speak and understand a language. And the doing of the like to another person, a young Gentleman of a very good Family, and fair Estate, (meaning Mr. Popham) who did from his Birth want his Hearing, is attributed to the effect of Dr. Wallis's skill, as it was then communicated to the publisher, without any mention of Dr. Holder; at which some just exceptions being taken, the publisher to avoid partiality on his part, (though but in appearance) hath thought fit to publish this ensuing Narrative, of what hath been done in this kind by Dr. Holder, as it is handed to him by the Author himself.

SOME years immediately before His Majesties happy Restauration, divers ingenious persons in Oxford used to meet at the Lodgings of that excellent Person, and zealous promoter of Learning, the late Bishop of Chester, Dr. Wilkins, then Warden of *Wadham* College, where they diligently conferred about Researches and Experiments in Nature, and indeed laid the first Ground and Foundation of the Royal Society. In that time, *viz.* in the Year 1659, *Alexander Popham* Esq; being deprived of Hearing from his Birth, and consequently of Speaking, about the Tenth year of his Age, by the Instance of Dr. *Ward*, now Lord Bishop of *Sarum*, and the said Bishop *Wilkins*, and Dr. *Bathurst*, the Present Dean of *Wells*, was recommended to the care of Dr. *William Holder*, then Rector of *Bletchington* near Oxford, and brought thither to him. Who desirous to

serve

serve the Ends, and contribute somiething to the design of that Worthy Company before-mentioned, viz. Improvement of natural knowledg and publick benefit: and not doubting but that a Dumb person, Dumb only in consequence of being Deaf, might be capable of being instruced to apply the motions of his Tongue and other Instruments of Speech, so as to acquire a ready and distinct pronunciation; and knowing it (as another might have done) to be both possible and feasible, from an Example of that kind, seen and heard by His late Majesty in *Spain*; did by means of such Considerations and Methods as are since by him made publick, in a short time, teach the said Mr. *Popham* to pronounce plainly and distinctly, and with a good and graceful tone, whatsoever words were shewn him in Print or Writing, or represented to him by other several ways; or as he had occasion to ask for, or repeat such things as he had learn'd or understood.

This was publickly taken notice of, and known, not only to those eminent persons above-named; but generally in *Oxford*, from whence very many Students resorted to *Bletchington* on purpose to satisfie their curiosity, and have a particular knowledg of that which they had received by report. Amongst these, Dr. *VWallis* was one, with whom also Dr. *Holder* had discourse on that occasion divers times when they happened to meet in *Oxford*.

In March 1662, Mr. *Popham* (together with Dr. *Holder*) was sent for to his Relations, then at *Westminster*. On which occasion, many persons of all degrees, both there and in *London*, satisfied themselves in hearing Mr. *Popham* speak, and particularly Sir *Charles Scarborough*, M. D. Who also in his publick Lectures of *Anatomy* at that time, thought fit to make an express Relation of it, naming also the persons concerned in this experiment.

In the Summer following (Dr. *Holder* being upon removal to *Ely*) Mr. *Popham* returned home to his Friends, and began to lose what he had learn'd; and about two years after, upon the Fame that Dr. *VWallis* had raised concerning Mr. *VWhaley*, was placed for some time with Dr.

Wallis, who in 1662, (two years after Mr. *Popham* had been by Dr. *Holder* first taught to speak) had made tryal upon Mr. *Whaley*, who could once speak well, till he became Deaf about five years of Age, (as Dr. *Wallis* relates) and then by degrees through occasion of his Deafness, wholly disused himself to speak.

Having some success in making Mr. *Whaley* pronounce words, though with a harsh ill tone; the Doctor (desirous it seems to entitle himself to this experiment) brought him to *London* in *May 1662*, and shewed this as a new wonder to the Court, and to the Royal Society, where he reaped great praise, and had it registred to perpetuate the memory of his Atchievement.

Dr. *Holder* saw this, and could not but wonder, and almost pity to see a person of so good Learning, endowed with so many excellent things to make him very considerably reputed in the world; yet by too much greediness of Fame, suffer himself to be tempted to the vanity of using such ways of begging and borrowing Reputation.

Had Dr. *Holder* been so ambitious, or would he have been moved on this just occasion to appear concerned to assert his own right; he could truely have let the world then know, That he is the first that is remembred ever to have succeeded in this attempt in *England*, or perhaps in the world, the person he undertook, being Deaf from his Birth; whereas that so noised, but later attempt of Dr. *Wallis* upon Mr. *Whaley*, was only to regain, in part, a decayed habit, upon one who could have spoke till five years old. And the Constable of *Castiles* Son (as is related by the Constables Secretary, *Pablo Bonet*) heard till two years of Age, and it is likely in that time, (considering the Climate) was forward in speaking. And Mr. *Popham*, when he was brought to Dr. *Wallis*, was one also who could have spoke well above two years before, having been taught by Dr. *Holder*.

The truth is, Dr. *Holder* then found this Essay so feasible, and still thinks it so easily practicable, after that method he used, and hath described in his Appendix to the Elements of Speech, that he thought it no such great matter

matter of boast ; and wonders that it hath not been, and is not oftner attempted, being certain not to fail upon any Dumb person that is docible (as most of them are) rightly managed. And he could wish that more attempts might be made by such ingenious persons as have leisure and opportunity, whom he assures of all readiness in himself to encourage and assist them. And as for the industry that Dr. *Wallis* used to celebrate the effects (as he speaks) of his skill, and assume all to himself ; Dr. *Holder* as unconcerned, suffered it to pass, and permitted him quietly to enjoy it, satisfying himself with what he had done, more in order to publick benefit, than for Ostentation. And should have still passed it over, had not Dr. *Wallis* in pursuance of his design, given further occasion.

For it happened that about six or seven years after, on occasion of the loss of some Papers on that subject, formerly communicated by Dr. *Holder*, to the late Bishop of *Chester*, (mentioned in his Book of the *Universal Character*, p.) which were lost in the Bishops study, together with all his own, in the dreadful *Fire of London* ; Dr. *Holder* was importuned by the said Bishop, and divers other Members of the Society, to renew those Papers, and to describe and discover the Method he had used in bringing Mr. *Popham* to speak. He thereupon in the year 1669, presented to the Royal Society, an account thereof in a Treatise of the *Elements of Speech*, with an Appendix concerning persons Deaf and Dumb, which they thought fit to order to be Printed. Wherein he having made some slight mention of his success upon a Deaf and Dumb person, intending Mr. *Popham* ; Dr. *Wallis*, who thought he had put himself in sole possession of the repute of this experiment, it should seem, was startled, and about a year after contrived to be published in the Transactions of July 18. 1670, a Letter of his to Mr. *Boyle* of Date *March 14. 166 $\frac{1}{2}$* . In which he pretends (for he could not do it in earnest, the subject in reference to him not being capable) to consider and debate about the Natural and Moral possibility and feasibleness of making a Dumb person speak, so to encourage himself to undertake it. And all this, after he had

seen it performed two years before, and therefore to his certain knowledg, it was both naturally possible, and morally feasible. And it was a mockery in him to pretend to deliberate about it, and that Honourable Gentleman was little obliged to him for being so treated.

But the Doctor had a further design in publishing it. For to this Letter he added by way of Comment, in the Publishers name, but of his own penning, a more particular account and boast about Mr. *Whalely*, and in three or four subtle lines (which was his chief design,) hedged in what concerned Mr. *Popham*, describing, but (wisely) not naming him. And concluded with magnifying a small Treatise of his *De Loquela*, *on confidence of which he durst undertake that difficult task*. And if Dr. *Holder*, or any other since that, have writ upon the like subject, they are like to gain nothing upon him, for he resolves, *Whether any since him have with more judgment and accurateness performed the same, he will not take upon him at all to determine*. For all which the Reader is referred to the said Transactions of July, 1670.

As to the last Challenge: *Whether any since him, &c.* Dr. *Holder* submits it (so far as concerns him) to the intelligent impartial Reader. But as to the considering Letter, and unseasonable boast of his success with Mr. *Whalely*, and principally his assuming Mr. *Popham's* speaking solely to himself; to which the other were only subservient, and were to make a noise while this slipt in; Dr. *Holder* declared then his dissatisfaction both to the Publisher, and to Dr. *Wallis* himself, as being (all circumstances considered) injuriously and disingenuously dealt withal. And now after several years expectation of some ingenuous satisfaction from Dr. *Wallis*, for that his want of Candour, in publishing at that time, and with that manner of contrivance, the fore-mentioned account in his Letter to Mr. *Boyle*, with the Comment upon it; at last he addresseth himself to the Publisher, thinking it just and requisite, that this Memorial be also inserted in the Transactions, both to disabuse the Reader, and to do some right unto himself.

This foregoing Paper, or near the same, (the Title or Preface of which was of Mr. Oldenburgh's own penning) was put into Mr. Oldenburgh's hand, and he thought it reasonable and just to publish it in the Transactions, both to give Dr. Holder some satisfaction, and to vindicate himself from seeming partial, having been thought to be so ; but in good measure excused himself in this particular, by being so imposed upon by Dr. Wallis. But he met with difficulty in the Licensing of it. They thinking it just and necessary that Dr. Holder should be righted, but willing to have some passages softned ; before which was done, Mr. Oldenburgh deceased, and so Dr. Holder remains without any possibility of being repaired by the same hand which unwittingly injured him.

Now whilst this affair lay before the Royal Society, and Dr. Wallis knew so much ; he could not forbear to act the same part over again. For the Ingenious and Learned Dr. Robert Plot, L. L. D. designing a natural History of Oxfordshire, Dr. Wallis thrust himself in, and contrived to be abundantly praised in that work, making a great part of it a History of Dr. Wallis. He imposes upon that worthy, honest, well-meaning person, who suspected no sinister design, to magnifie again that small Treatise *De Loquela*, to renew the challenge, and seem to prefer it before what Bishop Wilkins, or Dr. Holder have since writ, even by the advantage of what Dr. Wallis did before. When-as, the truth is, Dr. Plot had never seen either Dr. Wallis, or Dr. Holder's Treatises, and could not pretend to pass any Judgment upon them, but innocently suffered Dr. Wallis to pass it into his Book. And if we may guess at the rest by those three Paragraphs, p. 281, 282. n. 179, 180, 181. which were certainly (or the greatest and material part of them) of Dr. Wallis's own penning, and all of his supervising, it may be justly thought all the rest were so too. And here Dr. Wallis is secure to gain this point, that in a Book which will come into the hands of all curious persons, Dr. Wallis's fame is spread forth to all ; and but few will ever happen to know, that he imposed upon the good Doctor, and penned it himself, as he had done before to the Publisher of the Transacti-

ons ; but it was the greater abuse to Dr. Plot, to be referred to those Transactions which Dr. *WWallis* knew to lye at that time under correction before the Royal Society.

There is no man will blame any ingenious person for making himself fairly known to the world, by publishing the products of his Parts and Learning. And for those many things which Dr. *WWallis* has performed, and gained reputation ; Dr. *Holder* wisheth him much joy, and is as ready as any to give him his due praise. He thinks Dr. *WWallis* had enough to commend him to the world, and might have kept within the bounds of Fairness and Candor, and not have wanted due estimation.

And in this particular he esteems it very considerable what Dr. *Wallis* performed upon those two Deaf Gentlemen, and worthy to be known and valued, and has not been wanting to do him that right on all occasions, and would say more of it, if he should not seem to commend himself. But he thinks withal, that the Doctors manner of publishing it so often, and so many ways, and with so much boast and contrivance, was not fair in many respects ; and that he had manifestly a design by all possible noise and prepossession, to drown and suppress the Claim of any who should with more modesty own a primier Title to this experiment. Nor could the Doctor conceal his particular emulation, when he compassed to have his Treatise *De Loquela* or, *Of the formation of Sounds* to be commended. Where though the Doctor could not abstain from that subject, nor could find in his heart to determine against himself ; yet 'tis odds, but the impartial Reader will soon determine *WWhether the same hath not since been performed with more accuracy and judgment.*

He thinks further, that Dr. *WWallis* merited, and had a fair repute, and needed not to be so hasty and greedy, as to use such indirect and sinister ways of anticipating and enlarging his own fame ; but might have been sufficed without rifling his Neighbours, and adorning himself with their spoyls.

But it seems he could not help what was either in his nature, or else habitual to him ; and hopes to bear it out with

subtlety of contrivance, speaking like truth so artificially, that his Reader is to believe more than is true, and it serves him to impose upon them whose names and credit he borrows to commend him; and for a reserve to himself, if he be called to account. It is true that Mr. *Oldenburgh* and Dr. *Plot* have put upon Record some great performances of Dr. *Wallis*, and the Reader may seem obliged to relye upon their credit. But it is not true that either of them knew or writ any thing of those matters, but what was put into their hands by Dr. *Wallis*. It was no unlikely or incredible thing to consider of the natural and moral possibility of making a Dumb person speak. But it was not true that Dr. *Wallis* under those circumstances did, or could deliberate about that possibility. It was like truth, but it was not true, what he says in the Transactions, that he *did the like for another, &c.* Except by *doing the like*, he means, making another speak, who could have spoke before. But in the *Nat. Hist. of Oxford-shire*, he tells a more demure truth, that he taught Dumb persons; so he did, for two were his Schollars. But did either Mr. *Popham* or Mr. *Whately* owe their first speaking to him? Rather, one to his Nurse, the other to Dr. *Holder*. But Dr. *Wallis* desires and designs the world would be so kind as to be cajoled into such a belief concerning Mr. *Popham*; and the rather, since he has drawn in Mr. *Oldenburgh* and Dr. *Plot* (till they were better informed) to believe it, and prevailed with them, to say as from themselves, what he imposed upon them. The later of these survives, and 'tis not doubted hath so much integrity, as no longer to Father those passages which Dr. *Wallis* has crowded into his Book; but will do right to the Reader, and himself and Dr. *Holder* on all occasions.

THe Reader need not be troubled with Dr. *Wallis*'s whole Letter to Mr. *Boyle* in those Philosophical Transactions of July, 18. 1670. p. 1087. N. 61. But is here presented with a touch of such passages as concern this affair. And first, Pray Reader or Passenger, whatever you are about, leave it, and listen.

The Contents.

A Letter of Dr. John Wallis's to Robert Boyle Esq; concerning the said Doctor's Essay of teaching a person Dumb and Deaf to speak, and to understand a Language; together with the success thereof, made apparent to His Majesty, the Royal Society, and the University of Oxford, &c.

Title of the Letter in the same Page.

A Letter of Dr. John Wallis's to Robert Boyle Esq; concerning the said Doctor's Essay of teaching a Dumb and Deaf person to speak, and to understand a Language, together with the success thereof. Which Letter, though written many years since, was but lately obtained to be inserted here, it being esteemed very well worth to be preserved and communicated for publick use.

The Reader may possibly reflect upon the Doctors vanity in penning this out-cry, but it was but part vanity, and part design. For now, who can believe that ever any one thought of this before Dr. Wallis made this *Essay* upon Mr. Whaley? and so confidently shewed and boasted it; it must be presumed that this was the first *Essay*. Especially considering what follows in the Letter, Page 1088---*I thought my self obliged to give you this brief account of that whole affair, that you may at once perceive as well upon what considerations I was induced to attempt that work, and what I did propose to my self as feasible therein, as what success hath hitherto attended that Essay.*

Ibid. Now though I did not apprehend either of these impossible, [viz. to speak and to understand a language].

P. 1090. These difficulties (of which I was well aware) did not so far discourage me from that undertaking, but that I did still conceive it possible that both parts of this task might be effected.

P. 1092. To these fundamental grounds of possibility in nature, I am next to add a Consideration which made me think it morally possible, that is, not impossible to succeed in practice.

P. 1093.

P. 1093. My next *inducement* to undertake it was the consideration of the person——represented to me as ingenious and apprehensive——could have spoke till five years of age.

P. 1094. Having thus acquainted you with those *Considerations* which *induced* me to attempt it.

Ibid. Though I did believe that much more is to be effected, than is commonly thought *feasible*; and that it was *possible* for him to speak, so as to be understood.

Oxford March 14. 166 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Postsc. p. 1098. The said Doctor was by the same Assembly [Royal Society] encouraged to pursue what he had so ingeniously and successfully begun. [Modestly said of himself].

Ibid. Nor is this the only person, on whom the said Doctor hath shewed the effect of his skill, but he hath since done the like for another (a young Gentleman of a very good Family, and a fair estate) who did from his Birth want his Hearing, [meaning Mr. Popham]. By what hath been said before, the Reader is able to judg of the honesty of this last passage. Mr. Popham did indeed from his Birth want his Hearing, but he did not from his Birth to the time that Dr. *VVallis* began to teach him want his Speech; but this is contrived to make the Reader think he did.

P. 1099. He commends his small *Treatise De Loquela*, On confidence of which he durst undertake that difficult task.

Ibid. Whether any since him [that is, whether Bishop *VVilkins*, or Dr. *Holder*, as he explains himself in Dr. *Plots* *Nat. Hist. Oxford-shire*, p. 282.] have with more judgment and accurateness performed the same, I will not take upon me at all to determine, [very moderately express, but your meaning may be easily guessed].

With some sort of men, simulation and disimulation are no sins. These Considerations induced him, and his *Treatise De Loquela*, gave him confidence to dare to undertake that difficult task; but not a word of any inducement, or encouragement, or thought of the possibility of it, from his having seen it effected but two years before, within five Miles

of him, his Reader must not know of that ; and possibly Mr. Oldenburgh did not, nor Dr. Plot : but the Doctor knew it full well, when he sent that subtle Letter and Postscript to Mr. Oldenburgh, and plaid the same game over again with Dr. Plot. And in the Preface before the fourth Edition of his English-Grammar, tells the Reader that it was from hence, from his more attentive perpension of his Treatise of the *Formation of sounds*, [*postquam attentius perpenderam, hinc, &c.*] that he taught two Dumb persons [*plane mutos*] to speak.

Now after all, to compound this matter; though Dr. Holder is not willing to allow Dr. Wallis to be any more than an Interloper in this experiment, and refers to the Reader to judg whether the said Doctor did deal *bona Fide* in those pompous accounts published on this affair : yet, because Dr. Wallis hath shewn so much dexterity and fine contrivance in attempting to be sole Author of this effect ; Dr. Holder is content (if others be so), that Dr. Wallis may in lieu of it possess & enjoy that glorious Title of our ENGLISH ARCHIMEDES, *Nat. Hist. Oxf. p. 287.*

And further, If Dr. Wallis shall think fit to publish such-like grave Considerations about the Natural and Moral possibility of contriving glasses to help the eye to see at a distance, and to discern small bodies at hand : or of setting in a frame, Characters so disposed and ordered under a Press, that by them a thousand Books may be wrought off in the time that two or three can be written, with many other advantages : or of making a Powder, which being fired, shall have great force, and perform strange things. And if upon those Considerations, got to be published in the Transactions with Postscripts, and subtle Comments, and to be avouched in other Authors ; dissembling his own knowledg of any such matters before, but encouraged thereto, on confidence of his Book of *Mechanicks* : If with these and other like Artifices, he can attain to be thought the first inventor of Telescopes, Microscopes, Printing, Guns and Squibs, which he may better hope to effect, since the Authors of those Inventions are dead, and will certainly be silent and quiet ; Dr. Holder promiseth not to concern himself to undeceive the world, or strip the Doctor of any part of that Glory, provided he deal more fairly hereafter about the Deaf and Dumb.